SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: Sir, I have stated in the reply, and I would like to repeat, that "the desirability of imposing restrictions on resale of new passenger cars", which includes all new cars—and it is only the desirability—"is under examination".

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, there was a proposal just a year back that Members of Parliament would be given an opportunity or would be given some quota to purchase Maruti cars. I would like to know whether it is still there and whether there is any proposal on the part of the Government to lift the ban and given an opportunity for the MPs to register or to purchase Maruti vehicles now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant. But since it is of interest to Members....

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, he is prepared to answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hear me. It is of interest to Members. Therefore, I am allowing it.

SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: I do not know if Mr. Mohanarangam will be personally interested in the Maruti car which is a small car.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No deals can be struck here.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Mr. Chairman, I know full well that the Maruti car will not accommodate me. Knowing this I asked this question because it is in the interest of other Members. Even the Ambassador car will not accommodate me. (*Interruptions*). Where is my *guru*? He is absent.

SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: I fully appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member and Sir, we will be very keen that this facility is extended, but, Sir, there is a stay order..

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: He wants a van.

SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: Even this is covered under the stay order. There is a stay order.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: May I explain the position? Sir, all companies which are manufacturing four-wheelers enjoy a certain quota as the management quota. Unfortunately so far as Maruti Udyog Limited is concerned, it is considered as a Government company. Therefore, the view is that since it is a Government company, it cannot operate a management quota. Out of the management quota, some individuals were allotted Maruti cars, but somebody went to the court and got a stay order. The matter is pending in the Supreme Court. We are anxiously awaiting the judgment of the Supreme Court. In the light of the Supreme Court judgment, further action will be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please supply Mr. Mohanarangam with a truck. Next question.

Price of penicillin

*365. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the price of penicillin on the basis of which a price of Rs. 2100 per kg. has been fixed for the indigenous production of 6-amino-penicillenic acid:

(b) whether indigenous producers of 6 APA have been given enough supply of penicillin at this price; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, how Government expect them to produce 6 APA at the fixed price?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(a) The cost of Potassium Penicillin G Ist Crystals taken into consideration in fixing the indigenous price of 6APA based on Cost study of IDPL is around Rs. 455 per B.U., this price of Penicillin G Ist Crystals, however, is relevant only to IDPL's own production cost of said Crystals.

(b) and (c) Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited, Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, M|s. Alembic Chemical Works and M|s. Max India Limited are the only producers of 6-APA at present. Out of these units the former three themselves produce Penicilin First Crystal. Supplies of Penicillin First Crystal to all 6-APA manufacturers are being made available from indigenous producers and from imports to the extent indigenous availability is not adequate.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Drug Price Equalisation Fund is operated by the Ministry of Chemicals to subsidise indigenous production of drugs and drug intermediates, and the funds expected to flow into this have always been very low. In view of the fact that the Government does not pay the subsidy promised to the indigenous producers of 6-APA since the last one year, how does the Minister propose to solve this problem? And in order to encourage indigenous production of 6-APA, will he assure the House that either the promised subsidy will be paid regularly in future or he will evolve a mechanism to do away with this subsidy by increasing the customs duty on imported 6-APA from 25 per cent to 145 per cent to sustain indigenous production? Or else, does the Minister have any other proposal to do away with this subsidy mechanism? If so, what are the proposals and, if not, why not?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, so far as 6-APA is concerned, compared to the price of indigenous 6-APA, the imported 6-APA is very cheap. If we allow free import of 6APA, it will adversely affect the units which are manufacturing 6APA. Therefore, a formula has been worked out and a retention price of Rs. 2100 per kg has been fixed and the pooled price of Rs. 1230 per kg has also been fixed. Therefore, as against 1 kg of indigenous production, 2.4 kg is being imported. So, whatever we gain from this goes into price equalisation fund and from the price equalisation fund the indigenous manufacturers are being subsidised. It is not correct to say that subsidy is not being given. So far HAL which is manufacturing this 6APA and potassium penicillin first crystals, has been given Rs. 60 lakhs of subsidy in 1984-85; IDPL has been given a subsidy of Rs. 115 lakhs in 1984-85 Only the claim of Alembic Chemicals is under consideration because they have not produced all the documents that were required to take a final decision. So, out of the price equalisation fund subsidy is being given. If we want to impose customs duty or import duty, to that extent, the prices of formulations based on this will go up and naturally the consumers will suffer. Therefore, we have evolved this scheme of subsidy.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: In the process of production of 6APA for an economic production a minimum specified number of cycles of 400 has to run. Has the Minister ensured that a sufficient quantity of penicillin at Rs. 455 B.U. has been made available to the small scale units especially in Haryana? If so, I want to know the details of the same, and if not, why not.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: It is true that the production of 6 APA—the indigenous production—is not satisfactory. IDPL has got an installed capacity of 40 metric tonnes and as against that they are manufacturing only 17.10 metric tonnes. HAL has also an installed capacity of 28 tonnes but they are producing 15.61 tonnes. There is a shortage and the demand is growing. To the extent there is shortage, it is made up by import. And I can tell the honourable Member that whoever is using 6 APA for

producing semi-synthetic penicillin, we will see that the producers and the users of 6 APA are not punished or do not suffer. That is why we are importing sufficient quantity of 6 APA and supplying it to the manufacturers.

Overproduction of drugs

*366. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: †

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 182 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th May, 1985 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hoechst has overproduced Pheniramine Maleate by installing unauthorised plant and machinery.

(b) whether it is a fact that the Company has not complied with the fair price fixed by Government;

(c) what is the price at which Searle is offering this drug;

(d) whether it is a fact that NDPDC have recommended Pheniramine Maleate for price decontrol;

(e) whether it is a fact that 'Avil' is a popular brand and price decontrol is against the consumer's interests;

(f) if so, what is the basis and justification for such a recommendation;

(g) what is the quantity of Chlorpheniramine Maleate imported by Pfizer and Glaxo during the last three years, year-wise, source of import and landed cost per kg. per consignment; and

(h) when was the price of different packs of Piriton and Corex Syrup fixed and what price of bulk drug was taken?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Moimoona Sultan.

Statement

(a) The production of M/s. Hoechst (India) Limited for Pheniramine Maleate is in excess of their licensed capacity, but, is within the overall capacity licensed to them for the production of bulk drugs in a multipurpose plant.

(b) The price of Pheniramine Maleate was fixed at Rs. 582.74 per kg. in December 1980 under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979. M/s. Hoechst (India) Limited filed a Writ Petition against the price as fixed by the Government in the Delhi High Court. The Delhi High Court have set aside the Government Order fixing the price of the bulk drug and consequential changes in that prices of formulations. Government have filed a Special Leave Petition against the judgement of the Delhi High Court in the Supreme Court of India and the same is coming up for hearing on 20th August, 1985.

(c) M/s. Searle (India) Limited are offering Pheniramine Maleate at the notified price.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Medical Exports of the Steering Committee bearing in mind the criteria adopted by UNIDO for inclusion of drugs in the essential list, using the WHO list and the Hathi Committee list drew up the priority list. The National Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Development Council was of the view that price control should be confined to the priority list bulk drugs and related formulations only. Government has however, not taken any decision on the recommendations of the report of the National Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Development Council.

(g) Information is being collected.

(h) The price of the two formulations referred to was fixed in June, 1982 based on indigenous price of bulk drug of Rs. 747.37 per kg. fixed under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.